Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of September 1, 2003 to September 5, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Rigs Drilling	August 344	0.8%	80.6%	In August, the number of active rigs drilling in Alberta rose for the third consecutive month, to 344. The active rig count was up 80.6% from the same period last year, and 47.8% above the average level for August over the preceding decade. Year-to-date, drilling activity is running 30.6% ahead of the pace set through the first 8 months of 2002.
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	July 105.3	1.3%	-1.6%	Manufacturers' prices rose 1.3% in July, but were down 1.6% on an annual basis, due to a higher Canadian dollar. Excluding the effect of the exchange rate, the IPPI was up 1.0% from a year ago. Lower prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-6.2%), lumber and other wood products (-4.3%) and electrical and communication products (-4.0%) were the major contributors to the year-over-year decline in the IPPI. On a monthly basis, motor vehicles and other transport equipment (+2.9%), lumber and wood products (+3.6%) and primary metal products (+2.3%) contributed to increase in the IPPI. Due to lower prices for beef products, the index for meat, fish and dairy products was down 2.4% from June.
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	July 110.0	-1.5%	-2.4%	Raw materials prices declined by 1.5% in June. Animal and animal product prices (-10.1%) were the main factor in the monthly drop in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI), with prices for cattle and calves for slaughter falling 43.8% from June, reflecting the effects of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). On an annual basis, the RMPI fell by 2.4%, due largely to a 14.2% drop in prices for animals and animal products. This was partly offset by higher prices for mineral fuels (+5.6%). Excluding mineral fuels, the RMPI declined 8.6% on an annual basis.